

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

JANE DOE,

Plaintiff,

v.

TAL ALEXANDER,

Defendant.

Case No.: 25-CV-2109 (JPO)

**MEMORANDUM OF LAW OF DEFENDANT TAL ALEXANDER
IN OPPOSITION TO PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO PROCEED ANONYMOUSLY**

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Defendant Tal Alexander, by his undersigned counsel, submits this memorandum of law in opposition to Plaintiff Jane Doe's motion to proceed anonymously.

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

Fairness and well-settled precedent of this Court require Plaintiff to disclose her identity.

Plaintiff alleges that, while of adult age, she was sexually assaulted over five years ago.

Plaintiff seeks anonymity chiefly on the following grounds: (1) Plaintiff is the victim of a sexual assault; (2) Plaintiff avers, without corroboration from any medical professional, that publicity would traumatize her; and (3) Plaintiff has kept her identity confidential.

As this Court recently held, such contentions are insufficient to sustain a motion to proceed anonymously. *Doe v. Combs*, 24-CV-8852 (JPC), 2025 WL 950685 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 28, 2025).

That holding is fully consistent with numerous recent orders and decisions by sister Courts, including: (1) *Doe v. Alexander*, 25-CV-01631 (JAV), 2025 WL 748913 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 12, 2025); (2) *Doe v. Combs*, 24-CV-9852 (JLR), 2025 WL 934380 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 27, 2025); (3) *Doe v. Combs*, 24-CV-7777 (LJL), 2025 WL 722790 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 6, 2025); (4) *Doe v. Combs*, 24-CV-8810 (LAK), 2025 WL 268515 (S.D.N.Y. Jan. 22, 2025); (5) *Doe I v. Branca USA, Inc.*, 22-CV-3806 (LJL), 2022 WL 2713543 (S.D.N.Y. July 13, 2022); (6) *Doe v. Freydin*, 21-CV-8371 (NRB), 2021 WL 4991731, at *2 (S.D.N.Y. Oct. 27, 2021); and (7) *Doe v. Weinstein*, 484 F. Supp. 3d 90 (S.D.N.Y. 2020).

Plaintiff's counsel,¹ further, has courted the very public attention from which Plaintiff claims to need protection by: (1) publicly advertising its call for "Legal Action Against Alexander Brothers";² (2) posting on Instagram;³ (3) promoting its ad campaign in a premier

¹ The California law firm of AVA Law Group is identified as co-counsel on the complaint originally filed in state court in this action.

² <https://avalaw.com/legal-action-against-alexander-brothers-holding-abusers-accountable/>

³ https://www.instagram.com/avalawgroup/p/DGOx6L_MZCO/high-profile-real-estate-figures-

national newspaper;⁴ and (4) filing 12 separate simultaneous lawsuits in this Court against Defendant and his brothers, Oren and Alon Alexander, on February 18, 2025—including six “Jane Doe” lawsuits naming Defendant and eleven “Jane Doe” lawsuits in all, all accompanied by identical Memoranda of Law.⁵

Plaintiff thus seeks an unfair litigation advantage that prejudices the Defendant. The Defendant has been and will be subjected to scrutiny, scorn, and ridicule because of her accusations, while Plaintiff remains shielded from public examination that might test her credibility. Further, while Plaintiff’s lawyers, on their website, invite members of the public to come forward with information about the Defendant, Plaintiff seeks to deprive Defendant of the same ability to interview witnesses or to benefit from those who may come forward once her identity is publicly disclosed.

Defendant and the public have a right to a fair, transparent, and two-sided fact-finding process. Plaintiff has presented no extreme or special circumstances that permit one-sided secrecy—suppression of Plaintiff’s identity—while her lawyers publicly advertise, and publicly campaign, to maximize negative publicity against Defendant. Accordingly, the Court should deny Plaintiff’s motion to proceed anonymously.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The Complaint alleges that in or about 2014, Defendant invited Plaintiff to his apartment under the pretense of meeting for lunch. When she arrived, he raped her. ECF Doc. 1, ¶¶ 15-18.

These are disturbing allegations. But they are an insufficient basis to proceed under a

⁴ face-serious-allegationstal-and-oren-alexander-/?img_index=1

⁵ <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/09/arts/music/sean-combs-diddy-hotline-tony-buzbeelawsuits.html>

⁵ See Appendix A hereto, which hyperlinks to the identical Memoranda of Law in Support of Plaintiff’s Motion to Proceed Anonymously filed in 11 of those cases.

pseudonym. On this motion, Plaintiff must establish that her privacy interests outweigh the public's interest in open proceedings and Defendant's due process rights.

In support of her application, Plaintiff avers in relevant part:

3. I want to be Jane Doe because of serious professional concerns as I am in finance and there are many relationships I fear I will lose if my name is public. Further, I am humiliated and ashamed for my name to be public as I am still in a very fragile state from the abuse and in therapy. I fear this will set my mental health backwards even further and have serious repercussions on my well being.
4. Having my identity disclosed to the public in this matter will prevent me from being able to fully and fairly litigate this matter as is my right. Simply put, if my identity is to be disclosed to the public, I will not proceed with this lawsuit.
5. As opposed to using a pseudonym merely to avoid annoyance and criticism that may attend any litigation, this affidavit is being submitted in order to preserve privacy in a matter of sensitive and highly personal nature that will have lifelong impact on me and my family.

ECF No. 9-1. Plaintiff, however, offers no corroborating testimony from a medical professional.

Thus, Plaintiff offers no facts that distinguish this case from those cited at the outset of this brief.

ARGUMENT

Under Rule 10(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, a “complaint must name all the parties.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 10(a). This requirement “serves the vital purpose of facilitating public scrutiny of judicial proceedings and therefore cannot be set aside lightly.” *Sealed Plaintiff v. Sealed Defendant*, 537 F.3d 185, 188-89 (2d Cir. 2008). A district court has discretion to grant an exception to the “general requirement of disclosure of the names of parties” to allow a party to proceed under a pseudonym. *Id.* at 189 (citation omitted).

The Second Circuit sets forth a “non-exhaustive” list of ten factors that a district court should consider when ruling on a motion to proceed anonymously. *Id.* at 189-90. Under *Sealed Plaintiff*, the factors are:

1. whether the litigation involves matters that are highly sensitive and of a personal nature;
2. whether identification poses a risk of retaliatory physical or mental harm to the party seeking to proceed anonymously or even more critically, to innocent non-parties;
3. whether identification presents other harms and the likely severity of those harms, including whether the injury litigated against would be incurred as a result of the disclosure of the plaintiff's identity;
4. whether the plaintiff is particularly vulnerable to the possible harms of disclosure, particularly in light of his or her age;
5. whether the suit is challenging the actions of the government or that of private parties;
6. whether the defendant is prejudiced by allowing the plaintiff to press his or her claims anonymously, whether the nature of that prejudice (if any) differs at any particular stage of the litigation, and whether any prejudice can be mitigated by the district court;
7. whether the plaintiff's identity has thus far been kept confidential;
8. whether the public's interest in the litigation is furthered by requiring the plaintiff to disclose his or her identity;
9. whether, because of the purely legal nature of the issues presented or otherwise, there is an atypically weak public interest in knowing the litigants' identities; and
10. whether there are any alternative mechanisms for protecting the confidentiality of the plaintiff.

See id. at 190 (cleaned up).

“[P]seudonyms are the exception and not the rule, and in order to receive the protections of anonymity, a party must make a case rebutting that presumption.” *United States v. Pilcher*, 950 F.3d 39, 45 (2d Cir. 2020). As noted at the outset, moreover, merely alleging a sexual assault does not satisfy this multi-factor test. As shown below, Plaintiff fails to rebut the presumption against proceeding anonymously.

I. The Sensitive Nature of Plaintiff’s Allegations Does Not Outweigh Defendant’s Due Process Rights and the Public Interest in Transparency

Under the first *Sealed Plaintiff* factor, Plaintiff’s allegations of sexual assault involve matters of a sensitive and personal nature, such that Plaintiff has a privacy interest in protecting herself from the public scrutiny that may result if her identity is revealed. That fact alone, however, is insufficient to outweigh due process and the public interest.

As Judge Liman explained in *Branca*, “a claim by an adult plaintiff to have been the victim of sexual abuse and to have suffered physical or psychological damage as a result, accompanied by sufficient facts to support that claim, is not enough to entitle a plaintiff to proceed anonymously. Were it otherwise, virtually all claims of adult sexual assaults would *ipso facto* proceed anonymously.” *Branca*, 2022 WL 2713543, at *2; *see also Weinstein*, 484 F. Supp. 3d at 94 (“courts in this district have explained that allegations of sexual assault, by themselves, are not sufficient to entitle a plaintiff to proceed under a pseudonym”).

Accordingly, in this District, proceeding under an anonymous caption remains the exception, not the rule, for adult sexual assault claims. Plaintiff offers no basis to bring herself within the exception. *See also Combs*, 24-CV-8852, ECF Doc. 43, at 4 (“even the conjunction of factors one and seven is not dispositive”) (internal quotation marks and citations omitted).

II. Plaintiff Fails to Show Risk of Physical Retaliation or Mental Harm, Or Likelihood and Severity of the Harm

The second and third *Sealed Plaintiff* factors address the harm that would occur from the disclosure of Plaintiff’s identity. *See Doe v. Combs*, No. 23-CV-10628 (JGLC), 2024 WL 863705, at *3 (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 29, 2024). The relevant inquiry is “whether disclosure of the plaintiff’s name in the course of the lawsuit would ‘uniquely’ cause harm and ‘how grave the resultant harm would prove to be.’” *Branca*, 2022 WL 2713543, at *2 (citing *Rapp*, 537 F. Supp. 3d at 528-29). A “plaintiff must establish with sufficient specificity the incremental injury that would result from

disclosure of her identity.” *Freydin*, 2021 WL 4991731, at *3 (citing *Doe v. Gong Xi Fa Cai, Inc.*, No. 19-CV-2678 (RA), 2019 WL 3034793, at *2 (S.D.N.Y. July 10, 2019)).

Plaintiff fails to make the requisite showing. *First*, Plaintiff does not provide any evidence that she will be, or has been, subjected to any sort of threats or intimidation, either by Defendant or third parties, if her identity were to become known. *Doe*, 2025 WL 722790, at *2 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 6, 2025) (“Plaintiff has not shown that Combs poses any threat to Plaintiff now or in the future or that the disclosure of Plaintiff’s identity will create any harms to any third party.”); *Combs*, 24-CV-8852, ECF Doc. 43, at 7 (noting absence of any allegation that the plaintiff has, in fact, been subjected to any threats).

Second, despite averring that disclosure may cause her psychic harm, Plaintiff offers no “specific evidence [from a medical expert] predicting that revelation of [Plaintiff’s] identity w[ould] likely cause psychological and emotional pain so intense that it would threaten her stability, her safety, and even her life.” *Branca*, 2022 WL 2713543, at *4 (citing *Doe v. Smith*, 105 F. Supp. 2d 40, 43-44 (E.D.N.Y. 1999)). Plaintiff “has not introduced particularized medical or other evidence that revelation of Plaintiff’s identity would cause ‘exceptional’ emotional harm of the type that justifies anonymity.” *Combs*, 2025 WL 722790, at *3.

I Instead, where “a plaintiff claims that disclosure will harm that person’s mental health, courts in this Circuit look for corroboration from medical professionals that detail the risk to plaintiff.” *Combs*, 2024 WL 863705, at *3 (emphasis added). That corroborating evidence “must detail how revealing plaintiff’s name in particular, as opposed to the trauma that could occur through reliving the experience through litigation, would cause harm.” *Id.* Without such corroborating evidence, this Court cannot “‘speculate’ about the nature and severity of any mental injury from disclosure.” *Doe v. Weinstein*, 484, F. Supp. 3d 90, 95 (S.D.N.Y. 2020)

(quoting *Doe v. Solera Cap. LLC*, No. 18-CV-1769, 2019 WL 1437520, at *4 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 31, 2019)). A “conclusory assertion of the possibility of generalized harm—applicable to all victims of sexual assault—is insufficient to carry Plaintiff’s burden.” *Combs*, 2025 WL 268515, at *3.⁶

For the same reasons—failure to demonstrate any risk of retaliation, and failure to provide corroborating medical evidence—Judge Vargas recently denied the plaintiff’s request for anonymity in the *Alexander* matter pending before her. *See* 2025 WL 784913, at *2. Plaintiff offers no basis for a different result here.

III. The Remaining Factors Also Favor Disclosure

Plaintiff is an adult and apparently was an adult at the time of the alleged assault. The fourth factor favors Defendant. *Alexander*, 2025 WL 748913, at *3; *Branca*, 2022 WL 2713543, at *4.

The fifth factor concerns whether Plaintiff’s suit challenges the actions of the government or that of private parties. “When a lawsuit challenges governmental actions, actors, or policies, the plaintiff has a strong interest in proceeding anonymously.” *Solera*, 2019 WL 1437520, at *6. Because Plaintiff challenges purely private actors, this factor thus also favors Defendant. *Alexander*, 2025 WL 748913, at *3; *Combs*, 2025 WL 722790, at *3.

The remaining factors essentially ask whether the defendant is prejudiced by allowing the plaintiff to press her claims anonymously, and whether the public has an interest in disclosure. These factors also favor Defendant. As Judge Kaplan explained:

If Plaintiff’s name is kept from the public, information about only one side may thus come to light. In particular, “persons with information about [Plaintiff] or [her] allegations that would be helpful to the defense but were unknown to the defendant might not come forward.” *Branca USA*, 2022 WL 2713543, at *2. “This

⁶ Plaintiff cites *Doe v. Smith*, 105 S. Fupp. 2d 40 (E.D.N.Y. 1999), in support of her motion. However, in *Doe*, the plaintiff provided specific evidence from a medical professional concerning the potential harm from public disclosure. Here, Plaintiff has provided no such evidence from a treating physician or any other medical professional.

asymmetry between the parties not only would prejudice [Defendants], but would hinder ‘the judicial interest in accurate fact-finding and fair adjudication.’” *Combs*, 2024 WL 4635309, at *5 (quoting *Rapp*, 537 F. Supp. 3d at 531).... Moreover, “courts have found that defending against such allegations publicly, while a plaintiff is permitted to make her accusations from behind a cloak of anonymity, is prejudicial.” *Branca USA*, 2022 WL 2713543, at *4 (internal citations and quotations omitted). “Additionally, the plaintiff’s anonymity may undermine the defendants’ efforts to mitigate the alleged reputational damage stemming from these serious allegations.” *Combs*, 2025 WL 268515, at *4.

2025 WL 722790, at *3 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 6, 2025) (emphasis added).

For the same reasons, Judge Vargas recently held that this asymmetry between the parties, “creates a prejudicial imbalance against Defendants”; “these accusations are serious” and “reputation threatening” and have “already garnered significant media attention”; “therefore, this factor cuts against Plaintiff’s motion.” 2025 WL 784913, at *4 (internal quotation marks and citations omitted). That is particularly so given that Plaintiff’s counsel has directly invited such media attention, even if Plaintiff has not done so personally. Further, the “public interest would be furthered by requiring Plaintiff to disclose her identity,” because of the public’s “significant interest in open judicial proceedings and ... transparency, including exposure of the parties’ identities.” *Alexander*, 2025 WL 784913, at *4 (internal quotation marks and citations omitted). The fact that, to date, Plaintiff has kept her own identity confidential (the seventh *Sealed Plaintiff* factor), is insufficient to alleviate these concerns, and thus “is not significant enough to tip the scales.” *Id.* at *5 (internal quotation marks and citations omitted).

Finally, any interest the Plaintiff (or Defendant) has in keeping specific information confidential (including details about Plaintiff’s alleged injuries and any related mental health information) can be handled through a protective order without anonymity, while duly respecting the public interest in transparency and Defendant’s due process rights:

This is not a case in which “because of the purely legal nature of the issues presented or otherwise, there is an atypically weak public interest in knowing the litigants’ identities,” and there do exist “alternative mechanisms for protecting the

confidentiality of the plaintiff.” *Sealed Plaintiff*, 537 F.3d at 190. A protective order may “protect against disclosure of that information of the most personal and intimate nature.” *Branca USA*, 2022 WL 2713543, at *4.

Combs, 2025 WL 722790, at *4. *Accord Alexander*, 2025 WL 784913, at *5. None of the cases from this Circuit cited in Plaintiff’s papers offer contrary authority or aid Plaintiff on this motion.⁷

CONCLUSION

For all the foregoing reasons, Defendant respectfully requests that the Court deny Plaintiff’s request for anonymity and order Plaintiff to conduct this litigation using her true name.

⁷ As discussed above, *Doe v. Smith*, 105 F.2d 40 (E.D.N.Y. 1999) offered a corroborating opinion from a medical professional (in addition to lacking the media attention present here). *Trooper 1 v. N.Y. State Police*, 22 Civ. 893 (LDH/TAM), ECF Doc. No. 37 (S.D.N.Y. June 9, 2022), involved an unopposed motion against a sitting governor and other public officials. *Doe I v. McAdam Fin. Grp. LLC*, 22 Civ. 00113 (GHW/SN), 2022 WL 3579700 (S.D.N.Y. Aug. 3, 2022), involved a motion to proceed anonymously granted upon commencement of the case; because the defendants successfully moved to transfer the case to the District of Massachusetts, the court never had occasion to rule on a contested motion. *Doe v. Townes*, 19 Civ. 8034 (ALC/OTW), 2020 WL 2395159 (S.D.N.Y. May 12, 2020), denied the plaintiff’s motion. *Id.* at *7 (“The Court recognizes the difficulty victims face in coming forward with their stories and seeking justice, and sympathizes with Plaintiff. However, the majority of the Sealed Plaintiff factors weigh against granting Plaintiff’s Motion. For the aforementioned reasons, Plaintiff’s Motion to Proceed Anonymously (ECF 30) is hereby DENIED.”). Finally, *Grottano v. The City of New York*, 15 Civ. 9242 (RMB/NKF), 2016 WL 2604803 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 30, 2016), involved a complaint against public officials—the New York City Department of Corrections and certain corrections officers—by plaintiffs who cited concern about retaliation against them and the individuals they visited in prison if their identities were disclosed to prison officials. *Id.* at *1.

Dated: New York, New York
April 7, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX A – CASES FILED BY PLAINTIFF’S COUNSEL ON 2/18/2025

Case Name	Index No.	SDNY Case Number
<i>Jane Doe v. Oren Alexander</i>	152093/2025	
<i>Jane Doe v. Oren Alexander and Tal Alexander</i>	152094/2025	
<i>Jane Doe v. Oren Alexander</i>	152095/2025*	25-CV-2017
<i>Jane Doe v. Alon Alexander</i>	152096/2025*	25-CV-2111
<i>Jane Doe v. Tal Alexander</i>	152097/2025	
<i>Jane Doe v. Oren Alexander</i>	152098/2025*	25-CV-2145
<i>Jane Doe v. Oren Alexander and Tal Alexander</i>	152099/2025*	25-CV-2106
<i>Jane Doe v. Tal Alexander</i>	152100/2025*	25-CV-2078
<i>Jane Doe v. Tal Alexander</i>	152101/2025*	25-CV-2100
<i>Jane Doe v. Tal Alexander</i>	152102/2025*	25-CV-2077
<i>Jane Doe v. Oren Alexander</i>	152250/2025*	25-CV-2148
<i>Leah Peters v. Oren Alexander</i>	152167/2025*	25-CV-2140

*Removed to federal court.

CERTIFICATE OF WORD COUNT COMPLIANCE

The undersigned counsel of record for Defendant Tal Alexander certifies that the foregoing brief complies with the 8,750-word limit set forth in Rule 7.1(c) of the Local Rules of the United States District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York. The foregoing brief contains 2,929 words, excluding those portions of the brief excluded from the count by Rule 7.1(c), according to the Word Count feature on Microsoft Word.

Dated: New York, New York
April 7, 2025



Milton L. Williams